

I Claim:

1. A backing plate comprising:
abutment plate means for resisting braking forces, and
shielding plate means for shielding brake components from dust and dirt and reducing noise and vibrations.
2. A backing plate according to claim 1 wherein said shielding means is made of damped steel.
3. A backing plate according to claim 2 wherein said damped steel comprises outer and inner layers of steel and an inner layer of vibration dampening material, said layers of steel being of approximately equal thickness.
4. A backing plate comprising an abutment plate having a first part configured to be attached to an axle of a vehicle and a second part configured to resist braking forces and a shielding plate configured to shield brake components and made of a material that dampens noise and vibrations.
5. A backing plate according to claim 4 wherein said material is damped steel.
6. A backing plate according to claim 5 wherein said damped steel comprises first and second layers of steel of approximately equal thickness.
7. A backing plate according to claim 4 wherein said abutment plate is made of steel.
8. A backing plate according to claim 7 wherein said material is damped steel.
9. A shielding plate comprising a sheet of damped steel configured to be attached to a vehicle and to protect brake components from dust and dirt.
10. A shielding plate according to claim 9 wherein said brake components are components of a drum brake.

11. A shielding plate according to claim 10 in further combination with an abutment plate configured to engage brake shoes and to resist braking forces applied by said brake shoes.
12. A shielding plate according to claim 11 wherein said damped steel comprises first and second layers of steel on opposite sides of a dampening material, said first and second layers having approximately equal thickness.

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